Amendments to the Specification begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification

Please add to the beginning of the Specification the following statement:

Related Applications

This application is a National Stage of PCT/US00/04438, filed Feb. 22, 2000, which claims priority to Provisional Application No. 60/121,418 filed Feb. 23, 1999.

Please also add an Abstract of the Disclosure as shown below.

Abstract of the Disclosure

An *in vitro* system for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage is provided. The disclosed *in vitro* system comprises a mouse fibroblast culture derived from a transgenic mouse capable of expressing a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter and a chemical means for generating reactive oxygen species within the mouse fibroblast culture. Also disclosed is a method for using this *in vitro* system for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage. The disclosed method comprises adding a test agent suspected of providing protection against oxidative damage to the mouse fibroblast culture, adding a chemical means for generation of reactive oxygen species to the culture, determining human elastin promoter activity in the culture exposed to the test agent after a selected time period, and comparing the determined human elastin promoter activity in the culture exposed to the test agent to the activity of the same promoter in a control fibroblast culture wherein a decrease in the determined human elastin promoter activity is indicative of the test agent inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage.